



ACCIDENT SUMMARY

AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER VEHICLE *DUCK*6 LANE CROSSOVER COLLISION WITH MOTORCOACH Seattle, Washington

HWY15MH011
(3 Pages)



**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY WASHINGTON, D.C.**

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

A. CRASH INFORMATION

Type: Amphibious Passenger Vehicle *DUCK6* Lane Crossover Collision with Motorcoach

Location: State Route 99 (SR-99) on the George Washington Memorial Bridge over Lake Union in Seattle, King County, Washington.

Vehicle #1: 1945 DUKW Amphibious Passenger Vehicle Manufactured in 2005 with a 1945 General Motor Chassis and 1992 General Motors Engine

Operator #1: Ride the Ducks of Seattle, LLC

Vehicle #2: 2009 MCI J4500 Motorcoach

Operator #2: CWA Inc., DBA Bellair Charters, Hesselgrave South

Vehicle #3: 2011 Ram 2500 Pickup Truck (Private Operator)

Vehicle #4: 2006 Toyota Highlander Hybrid Sport Utility Vehicle (Private Operator)

Vehicle #5: 2007 Toyota Tundra Pickup Truck (Private Operator)

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015

Time: 11:11 a.m. local time

NTSB #: **HWY15MH011**

C. ACCIDENT SUMMARY

On Thursday, September 24, 2015, about 11:11 a.m., the *DUCK 6*, a 1945 DUKW amphibious military vehicle modified for commercial passenger tour operations, and operated by Ride The Ducks Seattle LLC, was traveling northbound on the Washington State Route (SR99) George Washington Bridge, also known as the Aurora Bridge. The *DUCK 6* was occupied by a 54-year-old driver and 36 passengers. At the same time a 2009 MCI motorcoach, operated by CWA Inc. (DBA Bellair Charters Hesselgrave South), was traveling southbound in the center lane on the Aurora Bridge. The motorcoach was occupied by a 68-year-old driver and 50 passengers. The *DUCK 6* driver reported hearing a loud “klunk-klunk” as his vehicle experienced a mechanical failure at the left front axle assembly, causing him to lose control. The *DUCK 6* crossed the center line into the oncoming traffic in the southbound lanes. The front of the *DUCK 6* struck the left side of the motorcoach near the driver’s compartment then penetrated into the left side passenger compartment of the motorcoach, damaging the interior floor and occupied seats and creating an approximately 19-foot-long opening.

Three other vehicles were involved in the crash event: a southbound 2011 Ram pickup truck; and two northbound vehicles, a 2006 Toyota Highlander sport utility vehicle (SUV), and a 2007 Toyota Tundra pickup truck. As the *DUCK 6* struck the motorcoach, the Ram pickup truck struck the passenger side of the *DUCK 6*. It remained in contact as the *DUCK 6* rotated, and it was redirected into the northbound lanes. The Ram truck, now in the northbound lanes, collided with the northbound Toyota Tundra, which was traveling in the right northbound lane. The *DUCK 6*, still in contact with the motorcoach, rotated counterclockwise, and started to roll toward its left side as it separated from the motorcoach. A number of passengers were ejected as the APV rolled onto the Toyota Highlander SUV briefly before coming to rest in an upright position.

As a result of this crash, five motorcoach passengers died. Sixty-nine passengers of the motorcoach and the DUKW reported injuries ranging from serious to minor. The *DUCK 6* driver was seriously injured, and the motorcoach driver sustained a minor injury. The occupants of the Ram pickup truck and the Toyota Tundra and Toyota Highlander SUV reported no injuries

END OF REPORT